

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 16, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Original claims 7 and 12 are now redrafted into independent form as the current claim 1 and 11, respectively. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter for claims 2-3, 7, 12-13 and 20 is appreciated. Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13-20 are pending in this application, of which the independent claims are 1, 11 and 19. Process claim 19 has been amended into conformance with its analogous manufacture claim 1 which is former claim 7. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-11 and 14-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,994,679 to DeVeau et al. ("DeVeau").

Since independent claims 1 and 11 have now been amended as former claims 7 and 12 redrafted into independent form and since these latter claims have been indicated allowable by the Examiner if so redrafted, the basis of rejection is deemed to be moot as to claims 1 and 11 and their dependent claims.

Claim 19, which recites a method analogous to manufacture claim 1, has likewise been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 7. Accordingly, claim 19 and its dependent claim 20 are also deemed to be allowable.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/108,726

Docket No. 5000-1-242.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in the event of any perceived outstanding issues so that passage of the case to issue can be effected without the need for a further Office Action.

In the event that any additional fee is required to continue the prosecution of this Application as requested, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 502-470.

Respectfully submitted,

CHA & REITER

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Date: 5/15/04

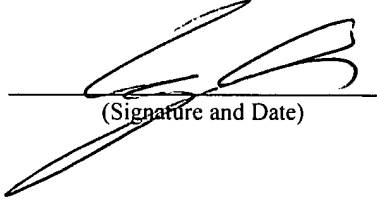
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